

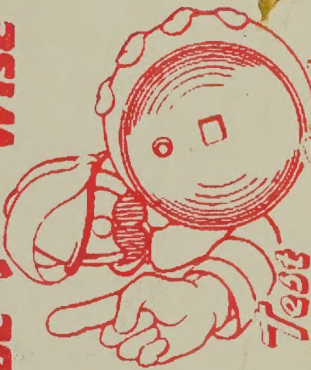
Fire Safety For The Entire Family

- ◆ Teach all children lighter and match safety. Keep lighters and matches out of sight at all times, even locked up, if necessary.
- ◆ Teach and practice home fire safety on a regular basis.
- ◆ Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- ◆ Install and maintain smoke alarms.
- ◆ Teach everyone **STOP, DROP, and ROLL** in case of clothing fires. Children who play with fire especially need to know this.
- ◆ Cool a burn using cold water.



**EDUCATING
TODAY FOR A
FIRE SAFE
TOMORROW!**

Be Fire Wise



**Test your
Smoke
Alarms
today!**

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**HAMILTON
ARSON
PREVENTION
PROGRAM FOR
CHILDREN**

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Children and Fire

Many fires are started every year by young children playing with lighters and matches.

Lighters/Matches are Tools Not Toys!

Children are naturally curious and can suffer severe burns, trauma or even death when playing with lighters or matches. Children as young as 18 months are able to operate lighters. It is a fact that children under the age of five are at serious risk of being killed in a fire... nearly double the average population's risk level.



How to Prevent a Tragedy

- ◆ Keep lighters and matches out of children's reach. It is your responsibility as a parent/caregiver..
- ◆ Teach children that lighters and matches are tools for adults' use, not toys for children to play with.
- ◆ Supervise child play. Don't leave children unattended.
- ◆ When your child is ready, find safe ways to let your child participate in your careful use of fire. Let them blow out the candles or help gather wood for the campfire. As children grow more mature they can learn how to use lighters and matches safely but only under adult supervision.
- ◆ Your Hamilton Fire Department recommends a minimum of one smoke alarm outside all sleeping areas in your home, and further, a smoke alarm should be installed in the bedroom of any child who has been known to play with fire.
- ◆ It is also recommended that you install a carbon monoxide detector in the sleeping areas of your home.

Problem Firesetting

Many children light fires out of curiosity while others use fire in anger or as a cry for help. Still others, light vandalism fires under peer pressure.

Whatever the reason, any act of firesetting must not be ignored and must be handled appropriately.

We Offer Help

The Hamilton Fire Department offers families help in dealing with child firesetters. If you need assistance, please call: **546-3383**.

An education session will be conducted in your home by an experienced member of the Hamilton Fire Department to help you and your child.

Sometimes further help is required by professionals in the Mental Health Services and the Hamilton Fire Department can make a referral for you.